

REMARKS

Summary

Prior to entry of the foregoing amendment Claims 1-17 were pending in the present application. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 8 and 13 have been amended without adding new matter. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment Claims 1-5 and 8-17 are pending with Claims 1, 8 and 13 being independent claims and the remaining claims (Claims 2-5, 9-12 and 14-17) being dependent claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Claims 1-5 and 8-17 in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-14 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable by Leurig (U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0014368) (hereinafter, "Leurig") in view of Takabayashi (U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0059995) (hereinafter, "Takabayashi").

Claims 3, 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable by Leurig in view of Takabayashi in further view of Kato (U.S. Patent 7,145,691) (hereinafter, "Kato")

Claim 1 is directed to a method executed by a server capable of communicating with a client device and a printer device through a network, the client device being different from the printer device. The method includes: "receiving a printing request from the client device; transmitting print data to the printer device selected in the client device in accordance with the received printing request; and transmitting, to the client device, information for causing the client device to acquire, from the printer device without going through the server, a state of processing of the transmitted print data."

The server recited in Claim 1 transmits print data selected in a client

device to a printer device in accordance with a printing request received from the client device. Furthermore, the server transmits, to the client device, information which is for causing the client device to acquire a state of processing of the print data from the printer device without going through the server.

According to the invention of the Claim 1, even if information for acquiring a state of processing of print data from the printer device is not registered in the client device, the client device can acquire the state of processing of print data from the printer device by receiving the information mentioned above from the server. That is, even if the state of processing of print data is not managed in the server, the client device can be notified of the state of processing of print data.

The Leurig reference teaches that server 104 receives a print request from client computer 108 and verifies a user of the client computer 108, and then downloads a data file into the client computer 108. The client computer 108 into which the data file is downloaded transfers the data file to printer 110. The printer 110 provides a status response to the client computer 108 after completing a printing process of the transferred data file.

However, the Leurig reference does not teach or suggest that the server 104 transmits, to the client computer 108, information for causing the client computer 108 to acquire a state of processing of data file performed by the printer 110. In the Leurig reference, the client computer 108 transfers the data file to the printer 110 and acquires a state of processing of the data file from the printer 110 without receiving information for acquiring the state of processing of the data file performed by the printer 110. Therefore, in the Leurig reference, a user needs to previously register the information for acquiring the state of processing of the data file from the printer 110. Thus, the Leurig reference fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the feature of Claim 1 of "transmitting, to the client

device, information for causing the client device to acquire, from the printer device without going through the server, a state of processing of the transmitted print data."

The Takabayashi reference teaches that print server 130 receives a print job from client computer 120 and sends the print job to printer 150. The Takabayashi reference, however, fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the feature of Claim 1 of "transmitting, to the client device, information for causing the client device to acquire, from the printer device without going through the server, a state of processing of the transmitted print data."

According to the Takabayashi reference, the client computer 120 acquires, from the server 130, a status of a printer managed by the server 130. That is, the client computer 120 does not acquire, from the printer 150, the status of the print job performed by the printer 150. Therefore, the server 130 of the Takabayashi reference needs to manage the status of the print job performed by the printer 150, such as "Printed" (a printed state) and "Pause" (a pause state).

In addition, the Kato reference also fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the feature of Claim 1 of "transmitting, to the client device, information for causing the client device to acquire, from the printer device without going through the server, a state of processing of the transmitted print data."

As described above, Claim 1 includes features not taught or suggested by the Leurig reference, the Takabayashi reference and the Kato reference, either alone or in combination. The cited and applied references (Leurig, Takabayashi and Kato) do not render Claim 1 obvious. Claim 1 is believed allowable. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1.

Independent Claims 8 and 13 include similar features to those discussed

above with reference to Claim 1. Claims 8 and 13 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 8 and 13.

The remaining claims (Claims 2-5, 9-12 and 14-17) are dependent claims. Because the independent claims are all believed allowable, as described above, all of the claims depending therefrom are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with reference to the independent claims. Furthermore, each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, and individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

All of the Pending Claims Are Allowable

As described above, all of the claims include features not taught or suggested by the Leurig, Takabayashi and Kato reference, either alone or in combination.

Furthermore, all of the amendments are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added.

For example, the feature “transmitting print data to the printer device selected in the client device in accordance with the received printing request” is supported by, for example, descriptions in paragraphs [0075] and [0076], and Fig.7, and the feature “transmitting, to the client device, information for causing the client device to acquire, from the printer device without going through the server, a state of processing of the transmitted print data” is supported by, for example, descriptions in paragraph [0055] and Fig.6.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Marlene Klein/

Date

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